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AMERICAN ART NEWS.

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Copies of "The American Art News" are now on sale at Brentano's, No. 9 Union Square, this city, and at The Old Corner Bookstore, 27 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.

The office of "The American Art News" is now prepared to procure for patrons and readers expert opinion at a nominal rate on pictures or art objects, to attend to the restoration, cleaning and varnishing of pictures, and to repair art objects at reasonable rates, to catalogue collections and galleries, print catalogues and circulars, and to supply art information of any kind.

In the interest of our readers, and in order to facilitate business, we are prepared to publish in our advertising columns, special notices of pictures and other art works, with reference to the individual desire of any owner or buyer to sell or purchase any particular example.

Should any of our readers desire any special information on art matters of any kind, we shall be glad to put our sources of information at their service.

With this issue the American Art News appears again as a weekly, and will reach its readers every Saturday from now on through the art season in America, until and inclusive of May 11, 1907.

Every preparation has been made to give to American artists, students and art lovers, as heretofore, a weekly newspaper in matter as well as in form, and to furnish a carefully selected and edited presentment of the art happenings of the preceding week, so that our readers may be enabled to obtain an intelligent and comprehensive idea of all matters of art interest in a brief time.

This is not a journal of technical criticism or discussion, but an art newspaper, and the success it has won on these lines, with the encouragement of rapidly growing circulation both here and abroad, inspires its managers to renewed efforts to improve its quality and usefulness.

The art season promises well. It is each year a little later in opening, but artists and dealers are cheerful and hopeful, and all predict a successful year. Much depends for the success of the season, from the business standpoint, on general business conditions the country through. These are now not only good but unusually promising. The auction houses tell of good bookings and many coming sales of importance are rumored.

In the firm belief that there exists a field in the South and Southwest for the exhibition of good pictures, and that a large and growing element of art lovers in the cities of these sections will welcome such exhibition, which at the same time should be a benefit to American artists, and bring their works to the attention of a new public, the American Art News Co., which publishes this journal, has arranged a se-

ries of exhibitions of one hundred or more representative and characteristic modern American pictures, to be held this season in the cities of Nashville, Tenn., Atlanta, Ga., Charleston, S. C., and Baltimore, Md., and it is expected also in the cities of New Orleans, La., Savannah, Ga., and possibly in Tampa, Fla., and Richmond, Va. This series will be called the American Art News Southern Circuit Exhibition, and has been made possible by the co-operation of the Art Clubs and Associations of Nashville, Atlanta, New Orleans, Charleston and Baltimore. The pictures have been carefully selected, have been contributed by most of the stronger painters, and will be first shown in the galleries of the Nashville Art Club at Nashville, Tenn., for two weeks, beginning about October 27. The second exhibition of the series will open in Atlanta under the auspices of the Atlanta Art Association about mid-November. From Atlanta it is expected that the pictures will go to New Orleans for an exhibition in late December or early January, and from thence to Savannah, Charleston, Richmond and Baltimore, with a possible detour to Tampa in March. The result of this first thoroughly organized travelling exhibition of pictures in the South and Southwest will doubtless be watched with interest by lovers of and believers in American art, and all those interested in the cause of art education in America. The American Art News Co. desires, with this journal, to express its sincere thanks to the artists and the art associations of the Southern cities who have by their co-operation and efforts made this experiment possible. An advance notice of the opening exhibition in Nashville will be found elsewhere in our columns.

On October 4 last there was told in the New York Herald, through a cable story from Paris, what can best be described as a fairy tale. The story detailed the coming sale in the United States of a remarkable and costly collection of "Old Masters," including examples of Rembrandt, Rubens, Reynolds, Boucher, Nattier and others of like fame, and gravely stated that one Henry Harry Raymond, now dead, collected these pictures, but that the arrangements for their shipment to this country, and their coming sale, had been made by one Jack Carr, who organized the theft of the Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, and who died a few months ago in a Copenhagen prison. The story further said that the collection was formed through many years of "careful research and selection," but that the particular species of "research" referred to bears a close resemblance to plain burglary. In other words, this statement, coupled with the further one that Jack Carr had something to do with the collection, intimated very broadly that the "Old Masters" are stolen pictures. The absurdity of this supposition, even if, as is further stated, the statute of limitations would apply to them, is so great as to make it seem strange that the Herald would give space in its columns to such a story. Yet the Herald gravely states that the pictures are now in this country, although no custom-house entry of

them can be found, are in the possession of the man who is said to have negotiated the recovery of the Duchess of Devonshire portrait, and that, if no hitch occurs, he will bring the collection to light and begin negotiations for its sale. As this last reference in the cable story pointed directly to "Pat" Sheedy, the well-known turfman, who has been dealing in pictures more or less the past few years, it is suspected that the genial "Pat" was not unaware of the cable story and succeeded, in vulgar parlance, in working the Herald for a first-class free advertisement of himself and his wares. The Carr collection, it is safe to say, is another "Marjory Daw." Those who recall that charming story will also recall the fact that there was no Marjory Daw.

OBITUARY.

Ed. Chappey, the well-known expert and dealer in antiquities, of Paris and New York, died, after an illness of a few hours from an intestinal disorder, in Paris, September 15. His father died the preceding day at St. Cloud, and the funerals of father and son were held together. He was born in France in 1858, and was therefore only 48 at his death. He had established a branch of his Paris house in New York in partnership with Mr. Edward Mamelsdorf, and intended spending the winter here. Mr. Chappey had unusual art taste and judgment, and was known as not only an expert but a connoisseur in several branches of art, notably in old and modern porcelains and furniture, old wood carvings, ivories and enamels. Mme. Chappey, who survives her husband, is herself a woman of rare intelligence and accomplishment, and an expert in several art branches. It is reported in Paris that the Chappey art collections will be sold at auction in the near future.

Members of the Salmagundi Club returning to the city have learned with regret of the death of Charles Baker, who was the club's treasurer. Although Mr. Baker was a business man, he gave most of his spare time to painting.

John C. Baker, head of the art department of the New York Herald, committed suicide recently by shooting himself. Mr. Baker had been connected with the Herald for several years. Previous to this he was with other daily papers in this city and Philadelphia. Mr. Baker was born in Atlanta, Ga. He leaves a wife and one child.

Charles Akers, the sculptor, who died in this city on September 16, had just finished the first volume of his autobiography, which contains accounts of many famous persons. Mr. Akers was born in Hollis, Me., on October 15, 1835, and went to Rome when he was twenty years old to study art with his brother, Paul Akers, who was a sculptor. There the brothers met Nathaniel Hawthorne, who used Paul Akers for the original of Kenyon in "The Marble Faun." His home was at 201 West Eighty-seventh Street. He had been engaged on his autobiography for a year. Death was due to consumption, from which he had suffered for many years. His widow and one daughter survive him.

John H. Lewis, Jr., for many years well-known in New York art circles from his business in handling collections of American pictures in the auction rooms and preparing the same for exhibition and sale, died suddenly from heart failure last week. His death was

a great shock to a large circle of relatives, friends and acquaintances, who had seen him in apparently perfect health the day of his decease. Mr. Lewis, who was universally popular from his genial nature and manner, was born in New York in 1851, and spent the greater part of his life in the old Ninth Ward. He succeeded his father, who survives in business, in 1894. He married a Miss Sophie Thomas, who also survives him. It is understood that Mr. James P. Silo, who was his life-long friend, and who deeply deplores his loss, will have entire charge of the conduct for his widow, of Mr. Lewis's affairs.

William B. Norman, the well-known auctioneer, died at his residence in New York on August 12 last. He had been in poor health for some years, and his death was no surprise to his many friends and acquaintances. He was born in Baltimore in 1837, was graduated at Princeton in 1855, and served as a private in the Civil War, mortgaging his property in Maryland to help equip a Union regiment. He became an auctioneer in Baltimore after the war, made a small fortune, which was lost through a defaulting cashier, and in 1883 came to New York and succeeded the late John H. Draper as auctioneer of the old Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms. There he continued until his death. He brought, through his Southern connections and influence, a large amount of Southern, colonial and other furniture and household goods to the North, and during the decade from 1885-1895, so much of this material left Southern homes, depleted by the war, that comparatively little has come out of that section since. The more important sales conducted by Mr. Norman of late years were those of the actor, Richard Mansfield, and the Bowles estate.

Until increasing years and a wearing illness broke him down, Mr. Norman was an excellent auctioneer and was exceedingly popular with the auction-loving public. He had good art taste and discernment, and many good pictures and art objects passed through his hands. His assistant for many years, Mr. Henry A. Hartmann, will continue as Mr. Norman's successor as auctioneer at the Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms, now at Fourth Avenue and Twenty-fifth Street.

John Chadwick, who has been a dealer in Spanish and Moorish curios for fifty years in New York and Newport, died last week in New York. He was 92 years old. He was one of the first men to go into the patent leather trade in America. Fifty years ago he went into the curio business. Since that time he has made over fifty trips to Spain and North Africa, collecting novelties. He made his last trip last summer, going alone in spite of protests of family and physician. He is survived by one son, four daughters and thirteen grandchildren.

While twenty-five thousand persons cheered on the plaza of the Williamsburg Bridge last week, James R. Howe, four years old, pulled a cord which unveiled a statue representing George Washington at Valley Forge, by Henry Merwin Shrady, presented by James R. Howe, grandfather of the boy, to New York city. Officials representing the city and officers of the army and the navy joined in the ceremony.

Charles M. Warner has presented to the Syracuse museum of fine arts Bernard Plockhorst's celebrated painting of "Christ's Triumphal Entrance into Jerusalem."